RCAS NEWS

NEED HELP? HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TRAINING?

Contact a service desk

for assistance:

Army National Guard (ARNG)

1-844-722-2373 (toll free)

United States Army Reserve (USAR)

1-844-770-3737 (toll free)

RCAS WELCOMES NEW PL

On 20 March 2017, Ms. Sammi S. Foong, Force Management System (FMS) Product Lead (PL), was appointed the new Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) PL. Ms. Foong will now manage both the RCAS and FMS programs, aligned under the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) Integrated Pay and Personnel System – Army (IPPS-A), led by COL James F. McNulty. As the Product Lead for both RCAS and FMS, Ms. Foong is responsible for the life cycle management of multiple software applications directly supporting the Army and the Army's Reserve Component mobilization, safety, personnel, and force management missions. Ms. Foong previously served as the Deputy PL for Computer Hardware, Enterprise

Ms. Sammi Foong, RCAS/FMS PL. Photo Courtesy: Ms. Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS Graphic Designer.

Software and Solutions (CHESS) and as the Test and Evaluation Program Support Chief for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). During her tenure with these programs, Ms. Foong gained valuable experience which RCAS intends to leverage as the program looks forward to working with her and moving into the future using cutting edge technologies.

As RCAS welcomes its new leader, the program says goodbye to Mr. Ralph Ocasio, Acting PL. For several years now, Mr. Ocasio has been a champion for the RCAS program. Although he will resume his duties as the Deputy Program Manager for the Installation Information Infrastructure Communications and Capabilities (I3C2), we know that Mr. Ocasio will continue to support the RCAS team, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP IS FORGED

COL James McNulty, Project Manager IPPS-A and members of his staff met with the combined FMS and RCAS teams on 6 April 2017 at the PEO EIS Headquarters Building. It was the RCAS Team's first opportunity to learn about COL McNulty and the new organizational alignment with IPPS-A.

COL James McNulty speaks with the combined RCAS and FMS teams. Photo Credit: Mr. Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Stratcom Support.

COL McNulty stressed that this new partnership will benefit the Soldier through a One Soldier, One Record and One Army Vision. COL McNulty expressed his passion for the IPPS-A program and his excitement for putting RCAS and FMS together under one PL within the IPPS-A portfolio. The new partnership will leverage the IPPS-A mission by enabling a better quality of life for Soldiers and families, providing robust tools to enable mission command for Commanders and Leaders, delivering a modern suite of capabilities, and meeting audit readiness requirements to the Army's Reserve Component. RCAS is excited about its new alignment with IPPS-A and looks forward to providing the Army's Reserve Component with even more advanced, easy to use, reliable, secure, and adaptive software and hardware for years to come.

RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEMS—SERVING THE SOLDIER...SERVING THE NATION

RCAS / IPPS-A COLLABORATION CONTINUES

PL CORNER

**MR. RALPH OCASIO
ACTING PRODUCT LEAD**

It seems like only a few weeks ago when I greeted you with "I'm Back" – and now I must begin with a heartfelt "Farewell". It has been my sincere pleasure to be a part of the RCAS family again, and to be reminded daily of the products and services that this team delivers to our ARNG and USAR Soldiers and their units. As most of you know, RCAS is transitioning to a new organization within the PEO EIS family, as a member of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) team, which I believe will be of mutual benefit to both, and most importantly to our Soldiers and their units.

It has been extremely rewarding to me to see the precision and dedication your RCAS team demonstrates in executing successful Product/ Infrastructure Refresh programs, and the continued progress in improving our AGILE software methodology. By the time, you read this, RCAS Release 7.1.2 will be delivered and ready for installation, certifying that you are operating at the current system baseline. Additionally, work continues to further automate the Refresh and Engineering Change Proposal processes to make them both more efficient and easier for you to use -- Please continue to offer your input and feedback.

Again, thank you for all you continue to do for our Soldiers; and again "Farewell".....Be safe out there.....

Collaboration between RCAS and IPPS-A continues as IPPS-A works towards subsuming the RCAS Unit Personnel System/Command Management System (UPS/CMS) and Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders applications in the FY18/19 timeframe and the Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application during FY20/21.

On 10 February 2017, key members of the IPPS-A staff met with RCAS at the RCAS Prime Integrator presentation facility to learn more about the RCAS applications that are not being subsumed by IPPS-A. Those applications are the Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV), Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) and the Forces Authorization (FA) suite of applications.

Mr. Jim Cook, RCAS Chief, Application Management Division (AMD) started the presentation with introductions and a high level overview. Mr. Max Dunn (pictured), RCAS Product Owner for both MPDV and SOH presented an overview of his applications to the IPPS-A staff.

Mr. Max Dunn, RCAS MPDV and SOH Product Owner, briefs IPPS-A staff on his applications. Photo Credit: Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Stratcom Support.

Mr. Mark Durand, RCAS Product Owner for the FA applications, also provided an overview of the FA suite of software applications. The briefings were beneficial to both RCAS and IPPS-A as the two organizations continue to solidify a productive relationship that will help ensure an effective and smooth transition of the RCAS Personnel applications to IPPS-A.
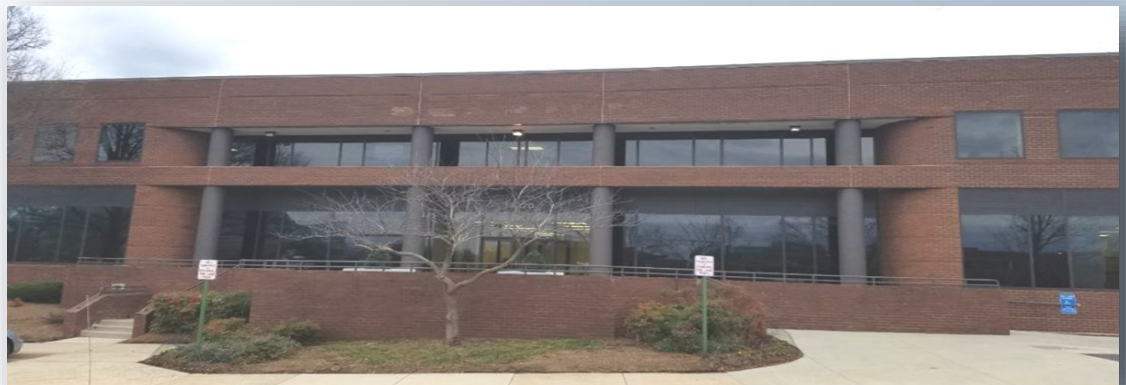
For more information, please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS AMD by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET LATER THIS MONTH

The RCAS Product Office will host the second Requirements Control Board (RCB) meeting of this fiscal year in Chantilly, VA on Thursday, 20 April 2017. This meeting provides the Army National Guard (ARNG) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) technical and functional representatives the opportunity to communicate directly with the Product Office team regarding both their respective current activities, and other topics relating to support of information technology capabilities. Planned agenda items include Product Office program updates on a wide range of topics for both discussion and decision. This forum, convened in a board meeting format, provides both components the opportunity to present and discuss their respective information technology initiatives and challenges, and offer integrated and synchronized solutions.

For RCB information the RCAS Product Office Points of Contact are Mr. Walter Farrell, Requirements Manager, by phone at 703-806-3414 or email at walter.m.farrell.civ@mail.mil, or Ms. Rita Bartholomew, Requirements Management Support, by phone at 703-806-3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil.

RCAS Prime Integrator Warehouse Facility in Chantilly, VA. Location of the April 20th RCB. Photo Credit: Mr. Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Stratcom Support.

RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEMS—SERVING THE SOLDIER…SERVING THE NATION

MEET YOUR NEW RCAS PERSONNEL PRODUCT OWNER

MR. DAVID M. CORNELISSEN

Mr. David M. Cornelissen joined the RCAS Team in April 2010. As an Information Technology (IT) Specialist, he started as the RCAS Risk Management and Quality Assurance Manager and has now assumed the role of RCAS Product Owner for the Personnel Applications (RPAM, UPS/CMS, MilPO).

David has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Valley City State University in North Dakota. Following college, he entered Officer's Candidate School (U.S. Navy) and was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy Reserves. Including time served in the U.S. Navy, as a contractor for the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) and as an Army civilian, David has served his country for over 28 years. After completing the Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird, Maryland, he served as a Naval Intelligence Officer and the Navy's only case officer in South Vietnam.

His favorite pastimes are travel and golf. He has travelled to over 30 countries and all continents except Antarctica.

David was raised in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, with two sisters and three brothers. He married in 1985 and together he and his wife have been blessed with three wonderful children.

David's favorite charity is the Friends of Autism.

RCAS RELEASE NEWS

RCAS Release 7.1.2 deployed 5 April 2017. The following enhancements, along with other fixes and updates, are included:

RCAS Release 7.1.2—April 2017

- **MPDV — Mobilization Planning Data Viewer:** Introduced the Multi-Conference Joint Assessment (MCJA) which is used by the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) to track units as they process through MCJAs. This is re-use of functionality found in the MPDV Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) Event module that is tailored to incorporate reports specifically for the MCJA. A small update to paragraph four in the unit movement plan will change "Service Support" to "Sustainment". A process was developed to automatically archive Battle Rosters 18 months after a Mobilization Station Arrival Date (MSAD). USARC System Administrators will be able to Un-Archive Battle Rosters. Finally, temporary Soldiers added to the Alert Notification Roster are now represented by an icon indicating they are temporary Soldiers.

- **SOH — Safety and Occupational Health Application:** Corrected defects that occurred while updating both Individual and Unit Awards. Analysis of using SOH in Windows 10 IE11 was a main focus area and 29 software defects were fixed. Release 7.1.3 is projected to complete at least three Engineering Change Proposals: Ability to Identify a Previously Uncorrected Hazard during Inspections; Archiving Soldiers and Civilians; Checklist Management Automated System (CMAS) Sorting Inspections. Finally, updates to the Aviation Resources Management System (ARMS) Checklist were completed.

- **PER — Personnel:** Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM)

Administrator now has the ability to select a Soldier added to their queue and update the selected record. In addition, the Administrator may also successfully run a Projected Retirement Report when the retirement month and day date is later than the Anniversary Year Ending date. Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders Administrators may now select one or more transactions to be processed via the Standard Installation Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) export process which now supports multiple records transfers. Finally, Promotion Board Worksheet Sergeants Boards Forms (National Guard Bureau [NGB] Form 4100-1A-R-E, 20151217) for E-4 and Promotion Point Worksheet Staff Sergeants through Sergeant Major Board Forms for Ranks E-5 through E-8 (NGB Form 4100-1B-R-E, 20160927) are now available in the Unit Personnel System/Command Management System (UPS/CMS).

- **FA — Force Authorization:** Includes a new View User Assignments Report to combine the view of Standard Requirement Code (SRC), Organizational Integrator (OI), and OI Group Codes within Force Management (FM). The Organizational Authority (OA) application enhanced the appearance of Corrected Copy text displayed. A new Conversion Permanent Order type was created in Permanent Order System (POS). Finally, the RCAS Authorization Data for Personnel (RADPer) allows users to select and change all associated paragraphs.

For more information on any RCAS Release, please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Application Management Division by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

SHARING THE RCAS AGILE SOLUTION FACTORY CASE STUDY – OPTIMIZED AGILE AT AN ENTERPRISE SCALE

The RCAS Agile Solution Factory (ASF) represents an optimized agile software development implementation at an enterprise scale. On 16 February 2017, Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Application Management Division and members of the RCAS Team presented the RCAS ASF case study on the implementation and transformation to agile to the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Agile Collaboration Group at their monthly meeting. The Agile Collaboration Group includes hundreds of members, including representatives from the DoD, the armed forces, industry, federal agencies, and academia. The group provides a forum for sharing experience and knowledge in effectively applying agile on large programs.

Mr. Cook and the RCAS Team also participated on the Agile Organization Culture Panel hosted by the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) on 22 March 2017. The discussion panel addressed best practices and lessons-learned in transforming to agile, the cultural aspects of the agile transformation and optimizing performance of agile at an enterprise scale. In recent engagements, the RCAS Team has shared the RCAS ASF case study to both the DAU and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L)

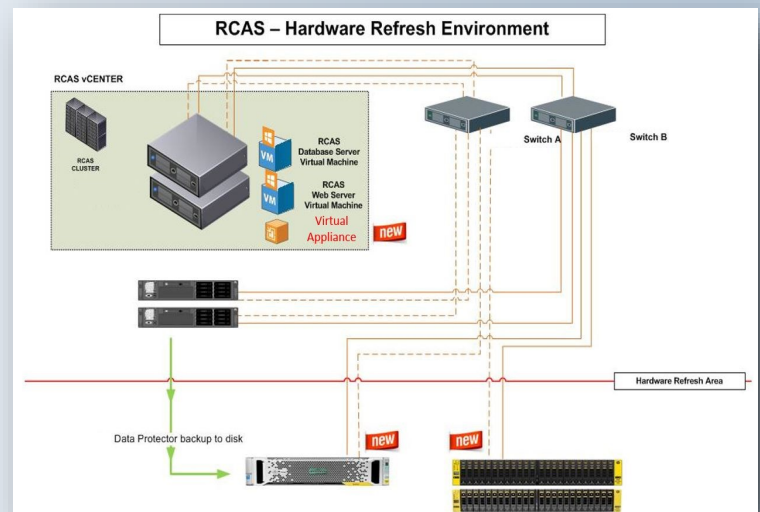groups in a number of briefs and tours, sharing best practices and lessons-learned.

Today the RCAS ASF sustains a suite of integrated, web-based software solutions that provide efficient software enhancements for the Reserve Components to manage mobilization, safety, personnel and force authorization requirements. Since making the transition to agile in June 2013, the RCAS ASF has increased cost efficiency by 44%, increased productivity by 10%, with average release quality increasing to 99% (defect free software delivery). During that period of time, the RCAS ASF has delivered more with less, with the number of personnel working in the RCAS ASF decreasing by over 20%. Optimizing performance included techniques such as test automation, continuous integration and DevOps.

The RCAS Team is interested in sharing the RCAS ASF as a large -scale agile case study (compliant with the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe®)) to others considering a transition to agile. For more information, please contact Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS AMD by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS PROVIDES INFRASTRUCTURE REFRESH TO THE ARNG

RCAS is about to complete phase 2 of a multi-year effort to refresh and modernize RCAS hardware at ARNG sites. In March 2015, the Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) began a two-phased process of refreshing and modernizing the RCAS servers, storage, and backup solution infrastructure, at all Army National Guard (ARNG) sites. Phase 1 provided servers that would host the virtual platform and allow for sites to expand their capabilities beyond RCAS, allow for systems consolidation, increased productivity, and cost reduction. Phase 1 was completed in May 2015.

In May of 2016, RCAS began Phase 2 of the infrastructure refresh effort, with the replacement, modernization, and expansion of existing storage and backup solutions, at ARNG sites. Working in concert with ARNG G6 leadership and the ARNG Data Processing Advisory Committee, RCAS gathered functional requirements that allowed for storage growth beyond the current RCAS suite of applications, and also allowed for system consolidation providing future capabilities for ARNG sites. These future capabilities include development and expansion of the Continuity of Operations Plans of the States/Territories, allowing them to maintain mission critical operations after any emergency or disaster. All RCAS ARNG Storage and Backup Solution migrations are scheduled for completion later this month.

RCAS is dedicated to providing our customers with the latest information technology solutions. For more information on the RCAS Infrastructure Refresh effort, please contact Ms. Angela Green-Mack, Chief, Technical Management Division by phone at 703-806-3089 or by email at angela.d.green-mack.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS RELEASE TOWN HALL NEWS

The Quarterly RCAS Town Hall was held Thursday, 23 March 2017. Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, Application Management Division (AMD) RCAS, welcomed participants and announced that the Information Management Architecture (IMA) division would now be included in the Town Halls.

RCAS releases a weekly installation status to key stakeholders. This information comes directly from the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The NGB has connections to each State to identify which RCAS release States are using. Unfortunately, NGB is unable to connect to several States. Those States were notified during the Town Hall, and should place a trouble ticket with NGB to solve the connectivity issue.

RCAS Release 7.1.2 deployed on 5 April 2017. Please remember that States have a 60 day support window for installing the latest RCAS release and to remain at the RCAS baseline.

An important Lesson Learned that came out of RCAS Release 7.1.1 was that of the use of self-signed certificates. Not only is this a security violation but it is out of the RCAS baseline, and Web Services will fail. If a problem occurs with your system due to the self-signed certificates, a State will not receive support from the RCAS Help Desk.

Regarding IMA, the Standard Installation Division/Personnel System (SIDPERS), Automated Fund Control Orders System (AFCOS) and Joint Uniformed Services Technical Information System (JUSTIS) technology stack refresh effort intends to replace the obsolete HP Titanium equipment at the States. IMA is working on a new accreditation for the Red Had Enterprise Linux (RHEL) platform and hopes to bring the schedule to the left to allow for earlier deployment of the new virtualized baseline.

The community is encouraged to complete a brief survey https://peoeissurvey.altess.army.mil/n/RCASInstallSupport.aspx at the completion of each release installation in order to assist RCAS in improving future deployment capabilities.

The next RCAS Town Hall is scheduled for June 2017. If you are interested in attending please contact Ms. Rita Bartholomew at (703) 806–3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil.

RCAS AUTOMATED ECP PORTAL LAUNCH

RCAS is proud and excited to announce the launch of the new automated Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) system to the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve this month. This system will replace the paper ECP process that is currently in use and will allow ECP submitters to follow the progress of their ECP from submittal to closure. All ECP submitters will require an account to enter the Common Access Card (CAC) - enabled Customer Engagement Portal system. Upon account creation, the user will have the ability to enter the automated ECP area, fill out the online form, and electronically submit the ECP all in one location. This eliminates the need for paper or email submissions. Users will find the automated ECP portal user friendly, transparent and effective. Additional information about the ECP submission process is located on the RCAS Army Knowledge Online (AKO) website under the Agile Edge folder at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093, including details and links to the Customer Engagement Portal.

Automated ECP Process—Customer Engagement Portal homepage.

For more information on the new automated ECP Process, please contact Mr. Mark Durand, ECP Process and Force Authorization (FA) Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3120 or by e-mail at mark.j.durand.civ@mail.mil.

MPDV SUPPORTS THE MCJA AT FORT LEAVENWORTH

The RCAS team provided support to units and Soldiers attending the Multi-Component Joint Assessment (MCJA), 6 - 9 February 2017 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Mr. Max Dunn, Product Owner for the Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) application and Mr. Dan Costner, RCAS Liaison Support Staff, assisted key personnel from U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and Army National Guard (ARNG) units scheduled for deployment in the next 12-18 months. The RCAS team acted as "ENABLERS" for Soldiers from each deploying unit, to assist them with the understanding and use of MPDV, for development of Battle Rosters, Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) Checklists, completion of DA Form 7425 and submission to the Department of the Army Readiness Tracking Software (DARTS) system at their assigned mobilization station.

Mr. Dan Costner explains the use of MPDV to Soldiers from a deploying unit at the MCJA. Photo Credit: Mr. Max Dunn, RCAS MPDV Product Owner.

Unit leaders were also informed on how to receive training for MPDV and other RCAS applications and were given answers to questions about mobilization processes and use of automated systems. The team conducted ENABLER sessions with all USAR units present at the event and many ARNG units. In all the RCAS Team assisted over 60 units and approximately 180 Soldiers.

RCAS plans to continue to provide support the MCJA. The event will be moving from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to Texas, alternating hosts between Fort Hood and Fort Bliss. RCAS will support the next MCJA at Fort Hood tentatively scheduled for 8-12 May 2017.

In addition to providing MCJA support, the RCAS MPDV Team can assist with your next SRP event using this time-saving MPDV tool. RCAS offers MPDV Leadership Workshops, briefings and SRP support for all levels of command. This support is fully funded by RCAS so there is no cost to the field.

Want to know more about MPDV and what it can do for you? Go to the RCAS homepage on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093. There you will have access to the latest MPDV information, briefings, contacts, the MPDV schedule of events and much more.

To request MPDV SRP support or a project briefing contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE/EVENT SUPPORT

RCAS is exhibiting and/or providing support at the following events:

Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Multi-Component Joint Assessment (MCJA) and SRP Support Events
Multi-Component JA Support—Fort Hood, Texas FY17, 8-12 May 2017

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops or conference events, visit the RCAS area for a software demonstration and to discuss RCAS products and services. The RCAS Team is available to provide briefings and answer RCAS related questions at various ARNG and USAR events.

To request RCAS participation at your next conference or workshop event, contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS TRAINING CORNER

RCAS Training Delivers Quality Service from Coast-to-Coast – The RCAS Training Team is delighted to support Soldiers across the country. Helping Soldiers learn to use RCAS application software to make their jobs easier is what we do! Since this time last year, we've taught Soldiers from Fort Belvoir, Virginia to Camp Roberts, California. Our team of Instructors travel to Minnesota in January, and South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, and Puerto Rico in August. Whether in Kansas, Utah, or Indiana; Texas, Tennessee or New York, wherever there is a call for RCAS training, we do our best to answer that call. Just this week, California Safety Specialist Mr. Ralph Pasillas

RCAS Senior Instructor Drew Lewis engages FIRO students at Humphreys Hall. Photo credit: Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Coordinator.

stated, "Once classes are done, I reach out to call students. It's one thing when someone fills out a survey, it's another thing when you talk to the person. The feedback I get on RCAS classes is all positive. That's not true of every training provider. RCAS students always tell me that they get something out of the classes. As a coordinator, I appreciate that the Instructors and the whole Training Team are very responsive. If I don't catch them when I call, they always call me back. I wish the RCAS Training Team could teach other courses we need in the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) Ground Safety Office."

Earlier this year, Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Training supported a classroom event at the Army Force Management School (AFMS), Humphreys Hall, Fort Belvoir, VA. RCAS Instructor Mr. Drew Lewis taught Force Management and Organizational Authority as part of the quarterly Force Integration Readiness Officer (FIRO) training. In the Force Management module, students learned to compare and analyze data associated with unit personnel and equipment assignments, to ensure accuracy of current provisioning. Content of the Organizational Authority module helped Soldiers understand connections between Unit Identification Codes (UIC), and the history of changes in the Army National Guard. Students learned to track changes in location and branch, through the organizational history of each UIC. Resultant analysis helps FIROs shift personnel and supplies to maximize efficiency and meet the needs of an ever-changing mission.

The well-equipped classroom facility at Humphreys Hall was filled almost to capacity with 34 students, each of whom had the benefit of their own workstation. Large screens around the room ensured everyone had a clear view of presentation material. Students were able to view data on the live server, which provided a real world application to the course content.

Collaboration between the RCAS and FMS instructors fostered an understanding of how the RCAS applications play an integral part within the Force Management arena, and how each aspect relates to the Department of the Army's mission at large.

To schedule training for your organization, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Coordinator, at 703-806-3163, Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil, or contact Ms. Catherine Kent, RCAS Training Manager at 703-434-6231, Catherine.Kent@caci.com. Alternatively, you can submit a "Request for RCAS Training – APPLICATION NAME" helpdesk ticket through the NGB Helpdesk at NGB-HelpDesk@mail.mil, or 844-722-2373. For the USAR, contact your Major Subordinate Command Point of Contact for RCAS application training.

RCAS
Reserve Component Automation Systems
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We are on the web at
https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093

Want to provide input to RCAS News or be added to the distribution list, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley at robert.g.medley.civ@mail.mil.
Reserve Component Automation Systems, ATTN: RCAS, 6010 6th Street, Building 1465B, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

Integrated Web Based Software Applications; Distributed Learning Program; Information Technology Infrastructure Integration and Refresh; and Requirements Management